Conference on Disarmament

15 February 2018

English only

Draft decision

The Conference on Disarmament,

Cognizant of its role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum established by the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I),

Noting that it provides its Member States with a platform to engage in negotiations, on the basis of the rule of consensus,

Convinced that disarmament and arms limitations, particularly in the nuclear field, contributes to the prevention of the danger of nuclear war and strengthening of international peace and security,

Taking into account developments in the field of international peace and security of concern to the Conference,

In pursuance of its agenda contained in CD/2116,

Noting that the agenda continues to provide the opportunity to address contemporary disarmament and international security challenges,

Recalling paragraph 28 of its rules of procedure which calls on the Conference to establish its programme of work on the basis of its agenda,

Taking into account the several proposals tabled since 2000 for the programme of work of the Conference and the interest to see the Conference return to substantive work,

Conscious of the need to conduct its work in a balanced and comprehensive manner,

Without prejudice to the right of any member State of the Conference to raise any subject relevant to the work of the Conference at a plenary and to further decisions that may be taken on substantive work and negotiations,

And without prejudice to the rules of procedure of the Conference and the responsibilities entrusted to the President under the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular rule 29 for drawing up the programme of work of the Conference,

Cognizant of the complex nature of the issues under its purview, the wide range of perspectives thereon, including on the levels of maturity of their consideration,

Seeking to advance the substantive work of the Conference in fulfilment of its mandate in accordance with SSOD I,

decides:

1. To establish, in accordance with Paragraph 23 of its rules of procedure, subsidiary bodies on agenda items 1 (one) to 4 (four), and one on agenda items 5 (five), 6 (six) and 7 (seven), which could also consider emerging and other issues relevant to substantive work of the Conference. In their work the subsidiary bodies would pursue, inter alia:

(a) To reach an understanding on the areas of commonalities in the Conference on Disarmament by taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals past, present and future;

(b) Deepening technical discussions and gradually broadening areas of agreement, including through the participation, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, of relevant experts;

(c) Consider effective measures, including legal instruments for negotiations.

2. Each subsidiary body will be chaired by a coordinator appointed by the Conference, under the guidance of the President on the basis of equitable regional distribution.

3. The subsidiary bodies shall conduct their work in accordance with Paragraph 18 of the Rules of Procedure, with even allocation of time. In accordance with Paragraph 24 of the Rules of Procedure, the subsidiary bodies may meet formally as well as informally.

4. In accordance with rule 35 of the rules of procedure, the subsidiary bodies shall remain open to all Member States of the Conference on Disarmament and to those non Member States that the Conference has invited to participate in its work during the 2018 session,

5. The report on the progress achieved and agreed on in each subsidiary body would be submitted by its coordinator to the Conference on Disarmament, through the President, for adoption and due reflection in the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

6. This decision, taken for the 2018 session, may be reconfirmed, as appropriate, at the beginning of the subsequent annual sessions of the Conference on Disarmament.